Edmund Taber returned from Capetown in the Atlantic last week after an absence of 2 to 3 mo he & the family are well

New Bedford 8 month 11 1857

Dear Friend
Deborah Weston

A week has elapsed since the receipt of your letter and notwithstanding my intention to write you has been force enough, I have not been able to fulfil it till the present moment. I have heard of your brother Warrens severe illness from S. H. Gay a few days previous, & it was a great relief to learn from you that he is considered out of danger. There is a great deal of sickness here now, as much if not more than has ever been known here: bloody dysentery. Mrs Capt Lumbard is now at the point of death & Mr Wm Howe's eldest daughter is very low. Neddy Brown Thornton's eldest boy has been sick for a week but is fast recovering. Both Daniel & James & my self are very well, with the exception of myself, who need rest & quiet more than anything else having had about as much as I could attend to in altering my house & attending to business the last six months. Arthur, I suppose you know has gone to Havre with Capt Anthony, he is probably

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by this time. He is not exactly a Sailor but the Capt Clerk - I trust that will be a benefit to his health. Mrs Baker Edwards mother died about two weeks since - Friend Rodman is very well, she is now at Mr Roberson's; Mr Samuel Rodman, does not improve much - I think he has rode out once or twice but since then has not been any better - Thomas however is slowly improving - he rides out & is able to walk about in the garden with crutches - our good Cousin Anna Brown has been & is now spending the Summer with us - Her husband is also here but will return this week without her - We have been enjoying ourselves very much since she has been here - there has been quite a number of parties - One at Mr Gen. Hayes - one at Mr Thos. John & Gilbert Thornton's & Wm P Russells - also several Daily parties & there are also to be one to Horse neck - at Sampson's & several other places - I wish you were here to enjoy them with us - but if you have as much pleasure in remodelling & altering your house as I have had, I think you will have a pretty good share of enjoyment - there are however many perplexities, such as being annoyed from your slumbers, at the dawn of day, having interruptions at your meals, & then not having things done quite to ones liking

and then the worst of all is the paying for it—
The first of August passed off very pleasantly
& quietly—I did not go to the grove, but saw the
procession several times—they had a Holiday
Company from New York with a White Band
of Music who "discoursed sweetly"—This said
Colored Holiday Company visited Mr Arnolds
garden & were invited into the Mansion,
and Mrs Arnold, also showed them the pain-
ting, curiosities & so forth—it was a noble
thing in her so to do—a few days after even
Fanny & Cousin Annie called there & she
told them, almost with tears in her eyes,
that she considered it her to duty, to contribute
to their comfort & happiness & compared her
own situation with the down trodden and
oppressed—She moreover said that she had never
had a more orderly & well behaved set of
people in her house—This is true nobility of soul
what a striking contrast to the cotton-oracy
of Boston—Would that all the wealthy & powerful
would do likewise—how soon Slavery would
be abolished—This is an example which
ought have great weight in our godly city—
many a sneering one has been put to the
blush, by the magnanimity of this truly
noble woman—it was so unassuming, so

unpretending & what is more, it was done as a da
Let it be known far & wide - Mr Lindsey did
not have a single remark about it but the
Evening Standard had something very
appropriate - The company Stand over
Sunday & Rodney French took one of them
to his Church, the Stone one & on Purchase
St, to the great discomfortune of the good Ol
dox Society - All these things will have their ef
fect & we must continue to do our part
We were successful in our Carpets - We did
not put up any Marble Mantle pieces - we
have none in the new parlors & left the old wo
en one in the Old parlor - if there are chim
neys, which we 1855 have not, having taken ours down
in the parlors, it would do I should think to
have Mantle pieces of marble - I wish I could
see you while making the alterations - People def
er to Spencer about Furnaces - I like mine ver
much it is Bryant & Hermans make - to be had
at Leopold Hermans Cypress St Boston, but you
will have to use your own judgement in regard to
You must excuse this Scrawl, as I have written
very hastily & in the Carding Room - Fanny has just ca
in & sends her love - She showed me a wooden spoon you
given to her by Mr Tappan, one that was used on board
of the Steve Hick Merrimac - With love to all
I remain as ever Your affd friend I Ricketson

Ms. 19.4.225, 107 A